

## 3.10 Socioeconomics

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

#### Population

Modoc County has an estimated population of 9,350 (January 2002) and is predominantly rural. The City of Alturas is the only incorporated area in the County, with a population of 2,840 (January 2002). Modoc County has a land area of 3,944 square miles and a population density of about 2.4 persons per square mile. The population within the County experienced a decline of 0.5% between 2001 and 2002 (DOF 2002a), and a decline of about 3.4% between 1990 and 2000. The County population has experienced a general decline in recent decades. Table 3.10-1 presents socioeconomic characteristics of Modoc County, including population, housing, and employment characteristics.

The I'SOT, Inc. community has a population of about 160 people occupying an area of about 201.8 acres. The average age in the community is 33 years (Merrick 2002).

**Table 3.10-1: Socioeconomic Characteristics of Modoc County**

1990 Population	9,678
2002 Population	9,350
2002 Housing Units	4,845
2002 Vacancy Rate	21.3%
1999 Per Capita Income	\$21,427
2000 Civilian Employment	3,660
2000 Unemployment	330

SOURCE: DOF 2002a, 2002b, and 1990 and E5 2002

#### Housing

Department of Finance data (DOF 2002a and 2002b) indicate that housing stock in Modoc County increased from 4,672 units in 1990 to 4,845 units in 2002. The vacancy rate of the homes also increased from 20.6% in 1990 to 21.3% in 2002. Housing authorizations in the County have been valued at \$2.7 million in 2000. Nonresidential permits have been valued at \$3.0 million in 2000.

#### Labor Force and Employment

The 2000 civilian labor force on Modoc County was 3,990 with an 8.3% unemployment rate. Businesses with the greatest employment size in 1999 employed from 100-249 workers. The largest employers in the county were federal, state, and local government agencies. Agricultural employment included 330 in 2000. Non-agricultural wage and salary employment in 2000 is shown in Table 3.10-2.

**Table 3.10-2:** Modoc County Non-Agricultural Wage and Salary Employment in 2000

<b>Industry</b>	<b>Number of Employees</b>
Construction/mining	100
Manufacturing	40
Transportation/utility	130
Trade	530
Finance/insurance/real estate	70
Services	370
Federal government	260
State/local government	1,010
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,520</b>

SOURCE: DOF 2002a

The labor force within the I'SOT community is divided up into construction, group home service, rural medical-dental-behavioral health clinic service, and agriculture and custom haying.

### Income and Sales

**County.** Estimated median household money income for the County in 1997 was \$28,174. Average earnings per job in 1999 reached \$22,865, average wages per job in 1999 was \$19,848, and average earnings per non-farm proprietor in 1999 reached \$20,301 (DOF 2002a).

Total taxable sales in the County were \$61.9 million in 1999 and \$75.9 million in 2000. The sales and use tax rate (including state, local, and district taxes) is 7.25%. The median adjusted gross income based on personal income tax returns was \$23,075 for individual returns and \$35,163 for joint returns.

**I'SOT Community.** I'SOT, Inc. is a non-profit corporation that depends on member contributions as well as State and Federal programs that it administers. Annual income of the individual I'SOT members ranges from zero to \$80,000 (Merrick 2002, personal communication). Programs administered by I'SOT include:

- A United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) School Lunch Program (current)
- Federal work retraining programs, including Ecotech
- A USDA low income housing program: Modoc West Apartments
- A State of California housing program for very low income singles: El Rancho Apartments
- A rural health clinic that accepts MediCal

**Agriculture.** Agriculture has been a historically strong industry in the County since the 1950's. The 440 farms in the County cover 662,927 acres, about 26.3% of the county land area. The value of production in 2000 was \$56.7 million, with hay and alfalfa as the leading commodities. Cattle and calves production was valued at \$11.5 million in 2000. The project area includes agricultural areas within Canby.

**Public Finance**

County revenues from tax are primarily from property tax, which totaled \$2.0 million for 1998-1999. County government tax collections totaled \$2.7 million for 1998-1999. Expenditures for the 1998-1999 fiscal year included \$19.0 million for the County, \$19.6 for school districts, and \$2.3 million for city expenses.

**REGULATORY FRAMEWORK****Federal**

On February 11, 1994, President William Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*. This Executive Order was designed to focus the attention of federal agencies on the human health and environmental conditions in minority communities and low-income communities. In an accompanying Presidential memorandum, the President emphasized that existing laws, including NEPA, provide opportunities for federal agencies to address environmental hazards in minority and low-income communities. In April of 1995, the EPA released the document titled *Environmental Justice Strategy: Executive Order 12898*. The document established EPA-wide goals and defined the approaches by which EPA would ensure disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority communities and low-income communities are identified and addressed.

**State**

No state goals, objectives, or policies are considered relevant to the potential socioeconomic effects that may result from implementation of the proposed project.

**Local**

The Economic Development Element of Modoc County emphasizes the need for job creation. The following policies pertain to the proposed action:

- Plan for and promote appropriately-located new industry which will broaden the employment base while being compatible with the community
- Support both public and private efforts towards compatible economic development and increased job opportunities

There are no local policies or regulations regarding environmental justice.

